

Serial No.: 10/665,260
Docket No.: P21-155424M/YS
NGB.286

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A string type air damper comprising:
a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;
a piston, which moves in the cylinder;
a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and
a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the
guide hole, wherein:
the piston and the string member are integrally ~~formed~~ molded; and
a reinforcing plate comprising a material which is different than a material of the
piston and string member, attached to the piston as a mount for receiving the helical spring.

2. (Currently Amended) A string type air damper comprising:
a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;
a piston, which moves in the cylinder;
a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and
a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the
guide hole, wherein:
the piston and the string member are integrally ~~formed~~ molded;
the string member branches into a plurality of portions and connects with the piston at
a base end portion thereof; and
the portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member.

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3. (Currently Amended) A string type air damper comprising:
- a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;
 - a piston, which moves in the cylinder;
 - a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and
 - a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein:
 - the piston and the string member are integrally ~~formed~~ molded;
 - the string member has a flat belt shape;
 - the guide hole of the cylinder has a flat opening and a smooth arcuate face continuing to a wide width edge of the opening; and
 - the string member having the belt shape is bent and guided along the arcuate face of the guide hole.
4. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 1, wherein:
- the material of the reinforcing plate is harder than the material of the piston and string member.
5. (Currently Amended) A string type air damper comprising:
- a cylinder formed in a tubular shape;
 - a piston, which moves in the cylinder;
 - a helical spring for biasing the piston toward one end portion of the cylinder;
 - a guide cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder and defining a guide hole;
- and,

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a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein:

the guide cap and the string member are ~~formed~~ integrally molded; and

the string member is hooked to the piston within the cylinder and is guided to the outside thereof.

6. (Original) The string type air damper according to claim 5, wherein:

the string member branches into a plurality of portions;

a base end portion of the string member is connected to the guide cap;

the plurality of portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member;

and

the portions are hooked at the piston.

7 – 9 (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 4, wherein the material of the reinforcing plate comprises a hard synthetic resin and the material of the piston and string member comprises a soft synthetic resin.

11. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 1, further comprising an end cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder.

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12. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 2, further comprising an end cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder.
13. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 2, further comprising a mount integrally formed on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.
14. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 3, wherein the guide hole comprises a shape that substantially corresponds to a cross-section of the string member.
15. (Currently Amended) The string type air damper according to claim 3, further comprising a mount integrally ~~formed~~ molded on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.
16. (Currently Amended) The string type air damper according to claim 5, further comprising a mount integrally ~~formed~~ molded on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.
- 17 – 21 (Canceled)